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1960-07-26, Bette to Parents

Bette J. Barto

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Subject Terms

Women and the military, Women and war, United States -- Air Force, United States -- Army -- Air Forces, Photographs, Armed Forces -- Correspondence, Correspondence -- Vietnam War -- 1961-1975, Christmas

Summary

This collection contains 139 correspondence from Maj. Bette J. Barto, USAFE to her parents while serving as a nurse during the late 1950s and 1960s. Also included are three photographs, one special orders document, and one marriage license. In several cases, Bette refers to her parents as "Lizzie" and "Hugh Elmer," or simply "Elmer." Three letters from 1961 or 1962 are undated and placed in a separate folder.

Keywords

1960-07-26

Identifier

2017-219-w-r-_Barto_ColdWar_1960-07-26

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Tuesday 6^{pm}

26 July 60.

Dear Mom and Elmer -

It has been only 2 hours since I talked to you and I have thought of a thousand things I should have said. I was at Chuck's room waiting for the call to come through. They have to be made on a "class B" phone - that's a privately owned phone - so they can bill that person. The call went from Tripoli to London to New York to Knoxville - I was very surprised it went so well. I think the reason we weren't more able to hear each other is that the monitor didn't switch the channel as he is supposed to. So actually you were supposed to talk - then I would talk - as it was, we were both trying and only one of us was heard.

I meant to ask you how you were and tell you how nice it was to hear your voices - like ~~they~~ were in the next room. I was so upset for fear that something

had physically happened to Ray that I haven't quite been same for days. Being so far away and not being able to get loose and go see for myself has been the worst thing that has ever happened to me, I believe.

I hope Ray is with you when you get this! I'll never quite understand why I haven't heard the first word from him, but I'm certain he must have had a reason. We thought until I can't think anymore. If I never see him again, I am still glad my prayers were answered for his safety. I was so terrified.

If he doesn't come to see you, just keep the letters. I won't be writing to Symone until I hear from him.

Thank you, Mom, for helping me, as usual. I'm sorry to be such a worry to you always. I love him - and I love you both.
Lette.